

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY CU/EE:TRHUTSON:AS

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

EUR/EE:RAMOSHER (DRAFT)

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT

REF: SOFIA 853

1. AT LUNCH FOR IVP GRANTEE VERA GANCHEVA MAY 12, AMBASSADOR POPOV CONFIRMED THAT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND A WASHINGTON MUSEUM (CORCORAN IS ACCEPTABLE) ARE BULGARIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING THRACIAN ART IN U.S. POPOV SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY APPROACH THE METROPOLITAN, OFFERING THE EXHIBIT FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN SPRING/SUMMER 1977 AND SPRING/SUMMER 1978. EXHIBIT COULD ALSO BE SHOWN IN TWO OTHER CITIES BUT POPOV MADE IT CLEAR THAT WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK ARE THE REQUIREMENTS. IF ARRANGEMENTS TO SHOW THE EXHIBIT CANNOT BE MADE POPOV SAID "WE WILL THEN SHAKE HANDS AND STILL BE FRIENDS."

2. IN RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR HERZ, QUINTON HALLETT HAS POINTED OUT THAT SITES BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT BULGARIANS RESUME, OR PERHAPS MORE CORRECTLY, BEGIN

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COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH IT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE

THRACIAN TREASURES EXHIBITION. TO DATE, NEITHER DR. FOL NOR THE COMMITTEE HE REPRESENTS HAS OFFICIALLY OFFERED THE EXHIBITION TO SITES.

3. IN ORDER FOR SITES TO CONTINUE ITS UNUSUAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE BULGARIANS IN PLACING THIS EXHIBITION, THE EMBASSY SHOULD IMPRESS UPON FOL OR WHATEVER BULGARIAN OFFICIALS THE EMBASSY FEELS APPROPRIATE, THAT SITES INSISTS ON HEARING FROM THE BULGARIAN ORGANIZERS DIRECTLY FROM NOW ON.

4. TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS, SITES IS QUITE WILLING TO RECEIVE MESSAGES THROUGH THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY. SITES DEEPLY APPRECIATES THE LEAD ROLE THAT EMBASSY HAS PLAYED IN NEGOTIATIONS HERETOFORE, AND HOPES THE EMBASSY CAN RETURN TO A MORE NORMAL ASSIST POSITION.

5. FYI. SITES RENEWED EFFORTS HAVE YIELDED VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM METROPOLITAN MUSEUM, AND IN TANDEM WITH POPOV, WILL SOON ENTER INTO CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS ON TIMING, CATALOGS, ETC. AMBASSADOR HERZ RECEIVED HOPEFUL RESPONSE FROM FIELD MUSEUM IN CHICAGO, BUT MADE NO BREAKTHROUGHS IN EITHER LOS ANGELES OR SAN FRANCISCO, WHERE HE WAS UNABLE TO REACH RESPONSIBLE MUSEUM OFFICIALS DURING HIS STAY ON WEST COAST. KISSINGER

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